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displayed (I have heard from nurses, women physicians, hospital managers and superintendents), and hope the discussion and thought which have been awakened may eventually bear fruit in a practical way.

“Thanking you for your own interest in the matter,

“Very sincerely yours,

“J. M. BALDY.”]

THE SUFFRAGE

DEAR EDITOR: Having recently returned from a vacation of two months, during which time my magazines were not sent on to me, I have not until to-day seen the August and September numbers of the JOURNAL, in which the matter of woman suffrage is discussed. With my friends Miss Dock and Mrs. Kelly, I regret deeply the failure of our Associated Alumnae to support the resolution of the Woman's Suffrage League, and in thinking the matter over, I am rather inclined to conclude that their action was due more to a lack of knowledge of what woman suffrage really means and involves, than to any deep-seated conviction that it is an undesirable and unworthy cause to support, for otherwise it hardly seems credible that such action could be taken by working women (such as we nurses are) who are also thinking women, if they have given careful study to this matter, which so profoundly affects not only the welfare of women but of the race. It seems as if with full knowledge of the movements which women are now making for the enfranchisement of their sex in almost every quarter of the globe, and of the historical events which have led up to them, we should not only find ourselves endorsing the workers for woman suffrage wherever we may find them, but might feel ourselves impelled to share as far as we are able in their heroic efforts. There is one thing assuredly which we nurses must believe, and that is that we have no right to take any action in ignorance of the full issues which are involved in it, and our responsibility is often as great for rejecting as for accepting a measure. For this reason, and because of the paramount importance of the subject, I suggest that our various alumnae associations and societies of all kinds devote some time during the coming year to a real study of the subject. More than one evening might profitably be devoted to addresses from workers in this field, and our libraries might be enriched with the standard literature in this subject, beginning with John Stuart Mill's "Subjection of Women." One has only to look at the literature of the last few months to realize the full import of this matter. The great Reviews—the *Contemporary*, the *Fortnightly*, the *Nineteenth Century*—have all accorded a distinguished place to articles

on this subject, while here in America, even the staid and conservative *Atlantic Monthly* has in a recent number an excellent article on the "Working Woman and the Franchise." If no speaker is available, that need not discourage us, for a useful course of reading could easily be mapped out, and I would even go so far as to desire that a certain small proportion of selected material should find a place in the issues of our cherished JOURNAL, even though it should be desirable for the editorial columns to preserve an independent attitude. I commend the whole matter to the most respectful and serious attention of our nursing associations.

New York, October 14.

ADELAIDE NUTTING.

THE SUFFRAGE

DEAR EDITOR: The JOURNAL's assertion that the question of suffrage is not of sufficient interest to women of the nursing profession to warrant any but an indefinite stand being taken editorially, has surprised and disappointed many of its readers.

It has been stated in one of its editorial pages that nurses have to contend with political forces which oppose the advancement of the class to which they belong. In what other truly effective way can nurses contend with such forces except by becoming politically forceful themselves?

It would be interesting to know what the attitude of the JOURNAL will be when the extension of the suffrage to women becomes a reality, as it soon will be in England. When nurses, as citizens, are entitled to vote for legislation in furtherance of their interests, for efficient men and women in government, and for health measures, far-reaching in results, will the JOURNAL, editorially, still remain neutral and uninterested?

Surely the purpose of this periodical could still be maintained if its policies were not so severely technical as to exclude a word of approval for some of the large reform movements.

Those of us who were impressed recently by the vigorous support of suffrage shown by the English nurses, cannot but feel that the nurses of America, though spirited in *individual* matters, still lack the true spirit of the times, an awakening *social* responsibility.

NORA K. HOLMAN, R.N.

THE SUFFRAGE—ANOTHER VIEW

DEAR EDITOR: As for the action in San Francisco relative to the suffrage question, let me say first that the Nurses' Associated Alumnae did right in refusing to go on record in support of a movement that is